

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**24. A venetian blind including:**

- at least two vertically-extending slat-supporting ladders, each ladder comprising first and second vertical members connected by a plurality of vertically-spaced cross-rungs;
- a plurality of horizontally-arranged slats, each slat being supported on one of said cross-rungs in each of said ladders and between said first and second vertical member;
- an adjusting mechanism for commonly pivoting each of said slats about its longitudinal axis by moving said first and second vertical members of said ladders in vertically opposite directions;
- a vertically-extending auxiliary tilt cord that is adjacent to a first vertical member of a ladder and can be moved vertically in a direction; and
- engaging means, on said auxiliary tilt cord and said adjacent first vertical member of said ladder, for moving said adjacent first vertical member at an intermediate location along its length vertically in said direction with vertical movement of said auxiliary tilt cord in said direction, so as to adjust the angular pivot of a section of the cross-rungs connected to said first vertical member above or below said intermediate location; said engaging means including:
  - an engaging collar slidably positioned about said auxiliary tilt cord and said adjacent first vertical member adjacent a cross-run; and
  - a bead fixed on said auxiliary tilt cord and vertically spaced away from said engaging collar; said bead being adapted to engage said engaging collar and thereafter move said engaging collar toward

one of the adjacent cross-rungs when said auxiliary tilt cord is moved vertically in said direction;

- and said engaging collar being adapted to engage said cross-run when said auxiliary tilt cord is moved further vertically in said direction.

25. The venetian blind of claim 24 wherein said engaging collar is between a pair of said vertically spaced cross-rungs, and said auxiliary tilt cord can be moved upwardly to adjust the angular pivot of a section of the cross-rungs connected to the first vertical member below said intermediate position.

26. The venetian blind of claim 24 which comprises at least two, vertically extending auxiliary tilt cords, each of which is adjacent to a first vertical member of one of said ladders; and wherein the engagement means is on each of said auxiliary tilt cords and each of said adjacent first vertical members.

27. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 24 wherein said engaging collar is between a pair of said vertically spaced cross-rungs, and said auxiliary tilt cord can be moved upwardly to adjust the angular pivot of a section of the cross-rungs connected to the first vertical member below said intermediate position.

28. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 24 comprising a plurality of engaging collars that are regularly spaced about said auxiliary tilt cord and said first vertical member and have a vertical spacing, between them, which is an integer value of a dimension that is equal to a vertical spacing between the cross-rungs.

29. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 28 comprising a plurality of beads that are regularly spaced along said auxiliary tilt cord and have a vertical spacing, between them, which is an integer value of a dimension that is slightly less than the vertical spacing between the cross-rungs.

30. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 29 whereby there is at most one engaging collar for every five cross-rungs.

31. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 24 comprising a plurality of engaging collars that are regularly spaced about said auxiliary tilt cord and said first vertical member and have a vertical spacing, between them, which is an integer value of a dimension that is equal to a vertical spacing between the cross-rungs.

32. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 31 comprising a plurality of beads that are regularly spaced along said auxiliary tilt cord and have a vertical spacing, between them, which is an integer value of a dimension that is slightly less than the vertical spacing between the cross-rungs.

33. (amended) The venetian blind of claim 32 there is at most one engaging collar for every five cross-rungs.